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TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 1566 IMMEDIATE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 369007

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SUBJECT LINE)

ORIGINALLY PROCESSED AS 5963966  
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: ES  
SUBJECT: SIU - ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SIU HAS COMPLETED A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TRAINING PROGRAM, CHARACTERIZED BY EXTRAORDINARY COOPERATION AMONG ALL CONCERNED. INSTRUCTORS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DEDICATION OF STUDENTS AND STUDENTS ARE DETERMINED TO APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE ACQUIRED TO GOOD EFFECT. THIS IS AN IMPRESSIVE GROUP OF YOUNG MEN, WITH IMPRESSIVE LEADERSHIP. AT EMOTIONALLY CHARGED GRADUATION CEREMONY ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, CLASS HEARD WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM ~~COMMODORE DIEGO HERNANDEZ (COMUSNAVFOR CARIB), UNIT COMMANDER LT. COL. JOEL RIVAS, DAS JAMES MICHEL AND COURSE DIRECTOR DAVID KRISKEVICH.~~

3. UNIT DEPARTED ROOSEVELT ROADS WITH HIGH MORALE, BUT WITH FUTURE IN DOUBT. LT. COL. RIVAS INFORMED MICHEL THAT HE RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE CLASS AS A DISTINCT, ELITE UNIT. HOWEVER, HE WAS UNCERTAIN ;HOW THIS WOULD BE DONE DURING THE PERIOD PRECEDING ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING CRIMINOLOGICAL INSTITUTE. HIS PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH THE UNIT TEMPORARILY WITHIN THE NATIONAL POLICE. MICHEL EXPLAINED THAT, BECAUSE NATIONAL POLICE ARE PART OF THE ARMED FORCES REPORTING TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE, THAT PROPOSAL WOULD MAKE THE UNIT INELIGIBLE FOR USG ASSISTANCE. (QUITE APART FROM SECTION 660, ESF FUNDS CANNOT BE USED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.) MICHEL ASKED IF UNIT COULD NOT BE TEMPORARILY DESIGNATED TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN AUGUST BY EXECUTIVE DECREE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATION OF ARCHBISHOP ROMERO AND SEVERAL OTHER UNSOLVED MAJOR MURDER CASES. RIVAS, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF INITIAL EXPERIENCE OF UNIT WAS TO FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON THESE OLD, INTRACTABLE CASES IT COULD PROVE DEMORALIZING. IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT RIVAS UNDERSTOOD NOTION OF USING COMMISSION AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE TO PRESERVE UNIT IDENTITY IN A NONMILITARY CONTEXT, WHILE LEAVING DISCRETION OVER DAY TO

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84 5974229 SCO

PAGE 002  
TOR: 171453Z DEC 84

NC 5974229

DAY CASELOAD.

4. DEPT RECOGNIZES THAT GOES INTEREST IN SIU (WHICH WAS THEIR IDEA) IS QUITE DIFFERENT THAN SALVADORAN INTEREST IN JPU (WHICH WAS OUR IDEA). NEVERTHELESS, HIGH SPIRITS, CONFIDENCE AND DETERMINATION TO APPLY BENEFITS OF TRAINING THAT ARE SO EVIDENT IN SIU TRAINEES IS DISTURBINGLY REMINISCENT OF ATTITUDES EVIDENT IN JPU TRAINEES UPON THEIR DEPARTURE IN MAY FROM FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER IN GLYNCOE, GEORGIA. GOES HAS STILL NOT RESOLVED ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS FOR JPU AND BENEFITS OF THAT TRAINING MAY BE IRRETRIEVABLY LOST. A SIMILAR PROTRACTED DELAY IN DEPLOYMENT OF SIU COULD PROVE FATAL TO ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE PROGRAM IN EL SALVADOR, WITH OBVIOUS BROADER IMPLICATIONS.

5. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PURSUE WITH GOES ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENSURING SIU WILL REMAIN INTACT AND CAN BE PUT TO WORK WITHOUT DELAY USING THE CONSIDERABLE SKILLS THEY HAVE LEARNED OVER THE PAST SIX WEEKS.

6. SAN SALVADOR 14982 WAS RECEIVED AFTER PREPARATION OF FOREGOING. FINANCIAL AND LONGER TERM ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES ADDRESSED THEREIN WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MESSAGE. DAM  
END OF MESSAGE

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